

Thereby, by inversely inserting the water bottle into the shell of the filtering apparatus, water is filtered before flowing into the water dispenser.

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application. The Examiner has rejected all claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pluta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,354,344), in view of Nohren, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 6,200,471). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that there is no teaching, suggestion or motivation within the prior art as the combination of features recited in Applicant's claims. Claim 1 cites:

1. A filter apparatus of a water dispenser, comprising:

a shell, comprising a plurality of water outlet apertures formed on a bottom surface thereof allowing water flowing from the shell to an water inlet port of the water dispenser, a slot recessed from a bottom portion thereof allowing a mouth of a water bottled to be inserted therein, and a plurality of water inlet apertures formed on a bottom surface of the slot, allowing water flowing from the water bottle into the shell, the shell further comprising an air inlet port at the top portion thereof;

a filtering material disposed in the shell, allowing water to be filtered before flowing into the water dispenser; and

a one-way valve mounted at the air inlet port of the shell;

wherein when the shell has a full water level, the one-way valve is pushed to block the air inlet valve, and when the water level of the shell is lowered, the one-way valve is relieved from the air inlet valve allowing air flowing therethrough.

(Emphasis added)

Focusing on the structure of and the function provided by the claimed element of one-way valve, Pluta et al. do not disclose a valve mounted at the air inlet port of the shell instead of "inlet port of the shell" cited by the Examiner. That is, there is no teaching about Nohren, Jr's disclosure of a valve as a push-pull valve mounted at the inlet port of the shell that is movable between open and closed positions associated with the upper surface of the cap, because firstly, Applicant's one-way valve is mounted at the air inlet port of the shell to control the air flowing into the filter apparatus, but Nohren Jr's manual valve is mounted at the water inlet port of the shell to control the water flowing into the filter assembly, and secondly, Nohren Jr's valve is a

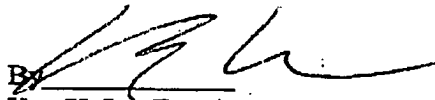
manual valve which needs to be pulled or pushed by hand to open and close the water inlet.

Also, the Examiner asserted Nohren Jr's air intake valve teach the one-way valve of the invention. However, Nohren Jr only discloses "While the filter assembly is typically self-venting, if it is not, or where additional venting is desired, optional air intake valve 13 may be provided in the cap 11" (See column 3, line 66 to column 4, line 1). There is no further detailed description or disclosure of Noabout this air intake valve in other place. It seems to Applicant that this air intake valve is a traditional valve which is typically used for venting. There is no teaching of this air intake valve to provide "when the shell has a full water level, the one-way valve is pushed to block the air inlet valve, and when the water level of the shell is lowered, the one-way valve is relieved from the air inlet valve allowing air flowing therethrough" as cited in Applicant's claim 1.

If the Examiner believes that a further telephonic interview will facilitate allowance of the claims, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (610) 446-5886. For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully asserts that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Chang Kuei Tang


By Kao H. Lu, Esquire
Registration No. 43,761
(610) 446-5886

686 Lawson Ave
Havertown, Pa 19083